

of policy and choice we prefer to found genera on characters exhibited by both sexes. Many will not take this view. In fact most of the families of North American Lepidoptera have been heretofore classified on secondary sexual characters. In this view, our two *Thecla* are not only specifically, but generically distinct. Of course, the larval differences are additional proof, if any were needed. We infer that Dr. Skinner, not having studied the larvæ, has supposed that their characters were negligible.

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### SOME NEWFOUNDLAND GEOMETRIDÆ, WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW VARIETY.

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In collecting a series of the common *Sciagraphia granitata* Gn. I was struck with the great diversity of coloration and markings, the colors varying from violet gray, yellowish, dark olive, light gray to pure silvery white and some with brick red markings. In a lot from Newfoundland, through the kindness of Mr. Owen Bryant, I found three of a very distinct form differing from any of the numerous descriptions and from others from the same locality. At first I feared to describe them, as there are so many synonyms in this group, but after reading through all the descriptions I find certain features which make these very distinct. The only description that at all approaches this variety is *submarmorata* Walk. (Cat. Brit. Mus., p. 887, vol. 23, 1861), but the markings and color of lines render it distinct. Below I append my description.

#### *Sciagraphia granitata*, var. *oweni*, new.

Expands 1.2 inches. Color above silvery white with very large black dots and wide smoky black lines. On costa, four black patches more lengthened than usual, white between. Basal line of fore wings smoky black (width of the body) showing in three prominent spots. Mesial band smoky, straight at costa, wider than on inner margin, including black distal dot, the black dots show plainly on veins. Beyond discal dot a narrow white sinuate line bordering the very broad smoky band which runs almost straight from black apical patch to inner margin, widening after spot between veins 3 and 4 as it approaches. Beyond this the border is marbled with black and white striations (more marked than inside mesial band) sometimes running into cloudings. The veins at base of fringe marked with small dots. Hind wings heavily

powdered with black and white atoms, basal smoky line straight, discal line large and black, then an extra discal smoky line running from anal angle high up on outer margin, more so than usual. Beneath more striking, white and black striations, legs black, marbled with white, body also; no ochreous markings as in *submarmorata* and most of the other synonyms. Basal and mesial bands very wide, merging near inner margin, black discal dot, then, smoky marginal band containing black patch in middle. Hind wings, basal line more sinuous than above, wide, smoky black; very prominent discal spot, a faint mesial line, then wide smoky black submarginal band, beyond marbled with black and white.

Grand Lake, Newfoundland, August.

This variety may be distinguished from all others by prominent black spots on fore wings with wide smoky black bands (not ochreous lines or bands as in most others) black and white body and legs. Described from 3 ♂♂, one in my own collection, one in the National Museum, Type No. 10275, the third in O. Bryant's collection. Besides this interesting variety Mr. Bryant turned up the following species:

1. *Lobophora nivigerata* Walk.
2. *Venusia cambrica* Curt.
3. *Eustroma destinata* var. *lugubrata* Mösch.
4. *Rheumaptera hastata* var. *mæstata* Nolck.
5. *Rheumaptera sociata* Bork.
6. *Rheumaptera luctuata* D. & S.
7. *Rheumaptera luctuata* var. *concordata* Walk.
8. *Mesoleuca silaceata* Hüb.
9. *Hydriomena magnoliata* Gn.
10. *Hydriomena magnoliata* var. *cumatilis* G. & R.
11. *Xanthorhoë abrasaria* H.-S.
12. *Xanthorhoë convallaria* Gn.
13. *Leptomeris frigidaria* Mösch.
14. *Sciagraphia granitata* Gn.
15. *Sciagraphia granitata* var. *oweni* Swett.
16. *Sciagraphia neptaria* Gn.
17. *Cymatophora inceptaria* Walk.?

This is not intended to be a complete list but just to show what species would be commonly met with. The other Newfoundland specimens of *S. granitata* correspond to Packard's variety *sexmaculata*, being stunted and olive gray; but it would be useless to attempt to separate these synonyms without comparison with Walker's types as well as the others. I wish to thank Dr. Dyar for specimens and advice; also Mr. Grossbeck for comparisons.